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Egypt

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INFO C I A
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 INFO USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE/ECJ2
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 GINCUBAREUR HEIDELBERG GE/DCS/INT
 DA/GACSI WASHDC
 SECSTATE WASHDC
 CIA WASHDC
 AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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25X1

1. EGYPT/LIBYA
2. MERSA MATRUH DECLARED A MILITARY AREA (U)
3. NA
4. 31 AUG 1976
5. CAIRO, 31 AUG 76
6. B - 6 7. MAJ GEN SHANKAT, DIRECTION / MILITARY INT.

JCS and DIA reviews
 completed.

8. [REDACTED]
9. 31 AUG 76 12, NA
11. CTR UNREF-402184

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12. [REDACTED]
13. [REDACTED]

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*****WHEN COMMENT*****

SEONCROFT, NYLAND, LL

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*****C O N F I D E N T I A L***** (IPY

14. L.N. SVENSGEN, JR., SC, USAF, DATT

15. (Z) ON 31 AUG

AFTER A SHORT

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DISCUSSION OF THE RECENT AIRPLANE HIJACKING, MG SHAWKAT DISCUSSED THE EGYPT/LIBYA SITUATION. HE SAID THE FORCES ON THE EGYPTIAN WESTERN DESERT CONSIST ONLY OF RESERVE UNITS FROM THE CAIRO AREA, AND THAT THERE ARE NO REGULAR UNITS FROM THE EASTERN (READ ISRAELI) FRONT. THOSE EGYPTIAN FORCES THAT ARE LOCATED IN THE WESTERN DESERT ARE ONLY REG IN NUMBER AND ONLY FOR DEFENSIVE PURPOSES. EGYPT, ACCORDING TO THE ONI, HAS NO INTENTION OF ATTACKING LIBYA. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS, HE SAID THAT SOME AIR DEFENSE UNITS HAD BEEN MOVED WITH THE EGYPTIAN FORCES, BUT ONLY AS PROTECTION. HE SAID ADDITIONAL AIRCRAFT HAVE NOT BEEN MOVED TO THE HERSA MATRUH AIRFIELD. THE LIBYANS HAVE NOT MOVED ANY FORCES TO THEIR BORDERS, BUT RATHER ARE USING AIRPLANES WITH ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT AS WELL AS SPIES. THE LIBYANS ARE RECRUITING TRIBESMEN FROM THE AREA TO PENETRATE THE EGYPTIAN FORCES AND REPORT TO THE LIBYANS. FOR THIS REASON THE AREA, AS OF 25 AUGUST, HAS BEEN DECLARED A MILITARY AREA AND TRAVEL IN THAT AREA IS WITH PERMISSION ONLY. THE TOURIST AT HERSA MATRUH HAVE BEEN PERMITTED TO REMAIN UNTIL THE END OF AUG AND AFTER THAT THERE WILL BE NO MORE TOURISTS TO HERSA MATRUH. ALSO, IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION, THE ONI STATED THAT TRAVEL TO MATRUH BY ATTACHES WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE AT THIS TIME AS THE ROAD IS "TOO CROWDED". MG SHAWKAT EMPHASIZED THAT THE FORCE ON THE EGYPTIAN WESTERN DESERT IS A DEFENSIVE FORCE AND THAT EGYPT HAS NO ATTACK INTENTIONS. ALSO, HE SAID THAT MOST OF THE FACTS WILL BE FOUND IN THE NEWSPAPER. IN RESPONSE TO ANOTHER QUESTION, GEN SHAWKAT SAID THERE ARE 232,000 EGYPTIANS NOW IN LIBYA. THEY ARE MAINLY TEACHERS, ENGINEERS, AND WORKERS. THE DISCUSSION THEN RANGED ON MILITARY ATTACHE TRAVELS IN EGYPT.

COMMENTS (C) THE GRIFFING WAS PROBABLY AN ATTEMPT TO SQUELCH THE RUMORS AMONG THE MILITARY ATTACHE CORPS THAT EGYPT IS BUILDING AN ATTACK CAPABILITY IN THE WESTERN DESERT.

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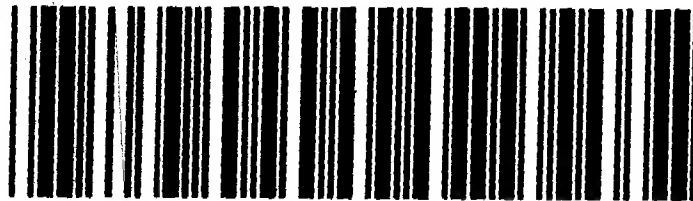
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S E C R E T SENSITIVE EXCLUSIVELY EYES ONLY

DELIVER OPENING OF BUSINESS

//WASH 176//

AUGUST 31 , 1976

TO AMBASSADOR EILTS

FROM BRENT SCROGFT

EXCLUSIVELY EYES ONLY FOR AMBASSADOR EILTS

1. SINCE THE SECRETARY IS OUT OF TOWN TODAY, I AM TAKING THE LIBERTY OF RESPONDING TO YOUR CABLE ABOUT HOW THE COMMUNICATION OF SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE ON LIBYA SHOULD BE HANDLED.

2. I DO NOT BELIEVE YOU SHOULD RESTRICT DAO REPORTING AND THE ADDRESSEES YOU ENUMERATE IN YOUR CABLE SEEM FINE. AS I INDICATED IN MY PREVIOUS CABLE ON THIS SUBJECT, I BELIEVE THAT THE ONLY SURE WAY TO TRY TO KEEP A HANDLE ON THE REALLY SENSITIVE MATERIAL IS FOR GAMASY TO PROVIDE IT ONLY TO YOU. THAT WAY YOU CAN COMMUNICATE IT THROUGH THIS CHANNEL AND WE CAN MAINTAIN ABSOLUTE CONTROL ON DISTRIBUTION. BUT TO REITERATE MY FIRST STATEMENT, I DO NOT BELIEVE WE CAN PRUDENTLY BE IN THE POSITION OF RESTRICTING THE LEGITIMATE INTELLIGENCE REPORTING OF THE DAO.

3. I AM NOT SURE WHETHER THIS HELPS YOU OR NOT. WOULD BE HAPPY TO DISCUSS IT FURTHER IF NEED BE.

4. WARM REGARDS,

BT

***** WASH COMMENT *****

HYLAND, MCFARLANE, RODMAN

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